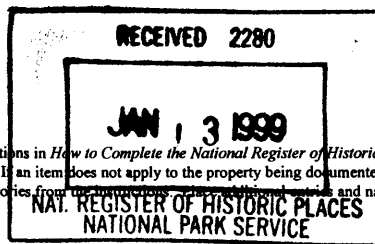


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions, plus additional codes and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Duncan Church
other names/site number Saint Placidus Catholic Church; Site # BF-GE-02

2. Location

street & number _____ N/A not for publication
city or town Gann Valley _____ X vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Buffalo code 017 zip code 57341

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationwide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
10-15-98

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Ball _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
2-12-99

Duncan Church

Name of Property

Buffalo County, South Dakota

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER:

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: clapboard
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Duncan Church; Buffalo County, South Dakota

Narrative Description

Duncan Church is a basilica plan church located amidst rural farmland, approximately 13.5 miles north and west of Gann Valley. The property occupies 2.4 acres in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 108 North, Range 69 West. Despite minor alterations, which include the construction of a small entryway on the east elevation, the application of an asphalt shingle roof, and the remodeling of the basement kitchen, the building retains substantial “integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association” and embodies “the distinctive characteristics of a type, period,” and “method of construction,” as outlined in 36 CFR60.4.

Duncan Church, constructed in 1927, has a rectangular plan measuring approximately twenty-eight (28) feet by forty-two (42) feet, including a vestibule, confessionals, and an extended pulpit. The building’s concrete foundation supports clapboard sided walls and an asphalt shingle gable roof. The front (south) facade consists of an off-center set of doors beneath a fixed sash, circle top window. A hipped roof provides the base for an octagonal spire, which is capped with a wood cross. A square fixed-sash window is located on the east, south, and west elevations of the steeple. The entrance is flanked on the east by a fixed sash window and on the west by a hipped confessional. Natural light enters the confessional through a fixed-sash window on the south elevation. Both the east and west elevations, of the main church structure, feature four Gothic arch windows. Each window consists of two sashes. The top (arch) sash is comprised of three-over-two lights. A four-light single hung sash completes the units. Aluminum storm windows have been added to the exterior of the Gothic arch windows. The remainder of the east fenestration consists of three hopper windows in basement and a wood panel pedestrian door on the main level. An enclosed, shed-roof entryway was built around this door in 1967¹. A bay, supported by two metal pipes, extends off the north elevation. The bay features splayed side walls, which contain a square fixed-sash window.

The interior follows a simple basilica plan. A vestibule is located in the steeple. Two panel doors open into the church proper. This consists of a central aisle flanked on either side by a column of pews. The left (east) side consists of eight pews, while the right (west) side features ten pews. These pews are composed of reclining back and flat seat. The ends are accented with two rosettes and a centered, recessed, Gothic arch. A rail is located at the head of each pew column. Composed of an arched top rail and tongue and groove fill. The rails are accented with a wood rosette. A step leads up to the pulpit. An additional step supports a wood altar. The pulpit is flanked on either side by a room. Both rooms feature five, vertical panel doors. The right (west) room is open and used for storage. The left (east) room contains a robe closet and a drawer set. An exterior door opens into this room.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Duncan Church; Buffalo County, South Dakota

Narrative Description (continued)

A twelve-step stairway leads up to the balcony, which is supported by two square wood posts. The wood steps feature bullnose treads. The balcony is rectangular-shaped with a central semi-circular arch that projects towards the pulpit. The open edge of the balcony is protected by a simple railing consisting of two full and two half, square newel posts, and square baluster. Four simple bench-like pews with kneepads function as balcony seating.

A closed, twelve step stairwell leads to the basement. The basement consists of a large open room and kitchen located along the north wall. Originally, the kitchen took up half the north wall. A coal bin occupied the other half. In 1952, a smaller, oil burning unit replaced the coal furnace². The following year, the kitchen was expanded and remodeled to include a serving counter³.

Interior trim is basic. Windows and doors feature simple casing and back band trim. The base consists of plain square stock accented with a rounded base shoe.

A gable-front privy is located immediately west of the church. This structure features clapboard siding, corner boards, a vertical plank door, and asphalt shingle roof. The parish cemetery, located at the northeast corner of the property, contains approximately 140 graves. The remainder of Duncan church property consists of a gravel parking area, located off the east elevation, a dirt pile, purportedly formed from earth excavated for the church basement.

Endnotes for Section 7

- 1 Ellen Cain Speck, *St. Placidus Parish, Duncan Catholic Church Centennial* (n.p.: n.p., 1987), 6.
2. *Ibid.*, 19.
3. *Ibid.*, 20.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Duncan Church; Buffalo County, South Dakota

Narrative Statement of Significance

Duncan Church is significant, at the local level, under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The church is an excellent example of early twentieth century vernacular church architecture. The building also addresses the historic context: "Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement; Religion (1858-Present)" as defined in *Historic Contexts for Historic and Architectural Resources in South Dakota*. The structure follows the basilica plan and despite minor alterations, consisting of the addition of a small-enclosed porch on the east elevation, the addition of a kitchen in the basement, and the application of asphalt shingles on the roof, the church retains considerable material integrity.

The parish began in 1887, shortly after the first settlers arrived in Buffalo County. Father Pius Boehm traveled 30 miles to the Duncan area from Stephan Indian Mission to officiate services¹. These early services were held at local residences including the Charles and Honora Cain sod house and the Finucane place². As settlement progressed in the county, a Catholic enclave formed in northern Grant and Eden townships. Patrick Hayes donated 2.4 acres of his homestead for a church and cemetery³. By 1899, approximately thirty Catholic families, representing Bohemian, German, and Irish nationalities banded together and built a small, gable-front, frame church⁴. The church was placed under the patronage of the Benedictine saint, St. Placid, and was often referred to as St. Placidus Catholic Church⁵.

On June 14, 1924, a tornado and windstorm blew through the county, ruining several buildings, including Duncan Church⁶. The church was completely destroyed. That fall, the congregation, with some financial support from the Catholic Extension Society, began to rebuild. The new structure was larger and more predominate on the landscape. It featured a concrete foundation, a basement, and a spire. The success of this new structure was short lived however, in fact painting was still needed. Mounds of dirt from the basement are present in the northwest corner of the property. Lightning struck the church on the morning of July 1, 1926⁷. Area residents noticed the resulting flames and rushed to salvage all they could. The building was severely damaged. With \$2,500, collected from an insurance policy, the parish once again began to rebuild their church.

During the early twentieth century numerous other South Dakota churches were damaged or destroyed by wind and fire. Other parishes outgrew their existing buildings and were forced to construct new churches. Several trends were prevalent among new churches built throughout the state during this period. Second and third generation churches, for example, were usually bigger, more substantial, and

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

Duncan Church; Buffalo County, South Dakota

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

more distinctive in style⁸. They usually incorporated basements to accommodate parish social gatherings. Decorative embellishments, such as Gothic style tracery windows, were also prevalent⁹. The new Duncan Church followed these trends. The building was larger than the previous church and featured a basement and gothic arch windows. A new concrete foundation was probably poured since windows evident in the basement of the second church are not present in the existing structure¹⁰. In addition, the foundation extends out on the southwest corner to support the confessional, a feature that was not present on the 1924 structure. The Duncan parish, in keeping with statewide trends, used the basement and kitchen for potluck dinners, bazaars, and card parties¹¹. Otherwise, the building followed the same configuration as the second church. It features a central entrance and a taller spire. The pews and altar were salvaged from the second church and incorporated into the new building, these elements are still utilized.

With the exception of a small interior fire in 1929, the third Duncan Church has remained accident free¹². Since then, the church has undergone few alterations. An enclosed entryway was added to the east entrance in 1967. The roof, furnace, and kitchen have all been updated. However, the Duncan Church Property retains most of its original appearance and integrity. The gable-front privy, west of the church, is still utilized. Parishioners still gather for Sunday mass and funeral services.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Duncan Church; Buffalo County, South Dakota

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Endnotes for Section 8

1. Duratschek, Sister M. Claudia Duratschek, *Builders of God's Kingdom: The History of the Catholic Church in South Dakota*, (Chamberlain, South Dakota: Register-Lakota Printing, 1985), 183. Speck, 3.
2. Speck, 4.
3. Ibid.
4. Sister Duratschek, 183. Ibid.
5. Sister Duratschek, 275.
6. *Gann Valley Chief*, 30 October 1924, 5, microfilm on file, South Dakota State Archives, Pierre, South Dakota.
7. "Duncan Church was Struck by Lightning," *Gann Valley Chief*, 15 July 1926, 5, microfilm on file, South Dakota State Archives, Pierre, South Dakota.
8. David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 60.
9. Ibid., 62.
10. Comparisons of the foundations are based on a historic photograph of the second Duncan Church published in Speck, 25.
11. Speck, 18-20.
12. "Duncan Church has Another Fire Loss," *Gann Valley Chief*, 11 April 1929, 1, microfilm on file, South Dakota State Archives, Pierre, South Dakota.

Duncan Church
Name of Property

Buffalo County, South Dakota
City, County, and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Duratschek, Sister M. Claudia. *Builders of God's Kingdom: The History of the Catholic Church in South Dakota*. Chamberlain, South Dakota: Register-Lakota Printing, 1985.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945*. Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997.

Gann Valley Chief. Microfilm on file, South Dakota State Archives, Pierre, South Dakota.

Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried. *American Vernacular Interior Architecture, 1870-1940*. Ames: Iowa University Press, 1993.

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center. *Historic Contexts for Historic Architectural Resources in South Dakota*. Vermillion, South Dakota: the agency, 1989.

Speck, Ellen Cain. *St. Placidus Parish, Duncan Catholic Church Centennial*. n.p.: n.p., 1987.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Duncan Church
Name of Property

Buffalo County, South Dakota
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.4 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A <u>14</u>	<u>494470</u>	<u>4891720</u>	B <u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C <u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>	D <u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Duncan Church is located on 2.4 acres in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 108 North, Range 69 West

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the parcel historically associated with Duncan Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin C. O'Dell
organization O'Dell Preservation Consulting date August 1998
street & number 820 Monroe Blvd., #76 telephone 307-674-7964
city or town Ogden state Utah zip code 84404

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name St. Joseph's Catholic Church
street & number P.O. Box 47 telephone _____
city or town Ft. Thompson state SD zip code 57339

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.